(c) The increase in trade deficit during the current year is maily on account of high price of crude oil and high growth of import of capital goods and raw-materials/intermediate products required to sustain the unprecedented growth in the Manufacturing Sector. The Government is watchful of the situation but does not propose to artificially restrict imports to contain trade deficit as this may have an adverse impact on inflation.

Anti-dumping duty on steel

†1669. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading steel industrialists have requested Government to impose anti-dumping duty on the lines of America, to prevent the misuse by International steel companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As of now, no application has been filed by the domestic steel industry for initiation of anti-dumping investigation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import and export of agricultural products by MMTC

†1670. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC Ltd.) has formulated any scheme for import and export of agricultural products and for agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) MMTC has been regularly importing and exporting agricultural products for the last several years. The major areas of operation of MMTC in the agricultural sector are pulses, sugar, edible oil and wheat. MMTC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.